

Charges Fly in Final Hours of Campaign

Torrance

Press-Herald

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DAY IN THE NAVY . . . Torrance Princess Etta Cumiford helps crewmen aboard the USS John Paul Jones unload 75-pound projectiles from below deck. Crewmen treated Miss Cumiford to a tour of the ship during her visit to welcome naval units to the ninth annual Armed Forces Day Parade and Celebration here. The two-day event is scheduled May 17 and 18. (Photo by John T. Hales)

Missing Girls Found Staying in Hawthorne

Tip-off Leads To Pair

The two Torrance teenagers reported missing last week were located by Torrance police Thursday evening, after a tip-off led authorities to a house in Hawthorne.

Safe and in good health were Susan Timbers, 13, of 409 Via Anita; Cindy Janzen, 14, of 230 Calle Miramar; and Cindy's pet dog.

The girls ran away from home Sunday, March 24, apparently staying with various friends during their 11-day absence. Cindy and Susan told Torrance police they were unhappy at home and were afraid to return home after having run away.

Parents of the eighth grade students at Parkway Elementary School at first feared the girls had been abducted. However, police received many tips from the girls' friends, who had seen them various places around town.

Information about the girls' whereabouts was disclosed after Susan's parents posted a \$500 reward for their daughter's return. Apparently, several of the teenagers' accomplices had seen the notice and decided to cash in on it, according to Susan's father, John Timbers.

Police advised him not to give them the money, since they had helped the girls hide from their parents.

Legal Aide To Resign From City

Richard L. Knickerbocker, deputy city attorney, has announced his resignation after a five-year stint with the city of Torrance.

Knickerbocker will begin work April 15 as assistant city attorney of Santa Monica, the town where he was born and raised.

The young attorney expressed sorrow about leaving Torrance city government, noting that he will continue to live here and help the city progress any way he can.

Building Tops \$2 Million

Building permits worth \$2,212,830 were issued by the city during March, according to a report just issued by John J. McKinnon, superintendent of building and safety. The March figure brings to \$8.3 million the value of permits issued during the first quarter of 1968. Permits for 21 new single family homes and 72 new apartment units were issued.

Election Cancels Meeting

Torrance City Councilmen will not meet Tuesday because of balloting here. State law prohibits the council from meeting on an election day. Three council seats are at stake in the voting and two other measures—one calling for repeal of the city's Uniform Housing Code and one seeking a salary increase for the mayor and councilmen—are on the ballot. Councilmen will meet Tuesday, April 16, at 5:30 p.m.

Fire Blackens Bar

A pre-dawn fire gutted the rear annex of a Torrance tavern Saturday morning, causing heat and smoke damage to the main portion of the building. Six firefighting units raced to the tavern at 1778 Carson St. at 4:11 a.m. and controlled the blaze within ten minutes. Cause of the fire has not yet been determined.

Ballot Drives At End

Charges of unethical campaign practices and dirty politics were flying at week's end as campaigning for the three seats at stake in the City Council election next Tuesday neared a climax.

Two of the city's leading nonpartisan office holders were first to blow the whistle on a candidate, charging him with unethical use of out-of-context comments in support of his campaign.

City Manager Edward J. Ferraro and J. Walker Owens, executive vice-president of the Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce, each sent blistering telegrams to candidate Orin P. Johnson, protesting use of comments they made several years ago for entirely different purposes in Johnson's political advertising.

THE PRESS-HERALD also protested use of comments made several years ago under greatly different circumstances. The Press-Herald editorial protest and the texts of protests from Ferraro and Owens are published today on the editorial page.

Rumors that Mayor Albert Isen was backing a slate of three candidates in the race were confirmed Friday when postmen delivered thousands of letters from Isen to Torrance voters—letters endorsing Johnson, William Uerkwitz, and Dr. Donald E. Wilson.

Isen's letter was immediately challenged by incumbent David K. Lyman, who called for a state attorney general's investigation into charges in the letter that members of the City Council had been holding secret meetings in violation of state law.

"I HAVE never taken part in a secret meeting, nor to my knowledge has any of the other councilmen," Lyman said. "Some of these charges go back as far as two years. If the mayor had evidence of such illegal meetings, why has he kept quiet about them all this time?"

The mayor's letter was "a desperate move of a man who (See CHARGES, Page A-2)



FOR MOON TRIP . . . Trying out cockpit of flight simulator are three students from Madison Elementary School who plan on spending a week in space. Pictured during a special tour set up on their behalf by Northrop are (from left), Debbie Roberson, Georgianne Lamb, and Penny Moran. The trio has spent the last seven months building an Apollo scaled to three-fifths size in which they will live for seven days. To prepare for their experiment they recently visited NASA headquarters in Houston.

Simulated Moon Journey Begins for Three Girls

Three Torrance girls are spending Easter vacation on a "trip to the moon."

Debbie Roberson, Georgianne Lamb, and Penny Moran, students at Madison Elementary School, entered their space capsule yesterday at 11 a.m.

The teenage trio of "Astronettes," who have named their scaled-down version of the Apollo Geo-debny, will take their simulated trip on the Roberson front lawn at 16925 Eastwood Ave.

DURING the "trip" the girls will live on dehydrated and canned food and will only leave the capsule once—when they emerge for five minutes midway through the trip to plant an American flag on "moon" soil.

The result of seven months of labor and \$70 expenditures by the three girls, the Geo-debny capsule measures 6 feet 6½ inches high by 7 feet 8 inches wide.

It was built from Apollo specifications, scaled down to three-fifth size to represent the girls' size in proportion to the astronauts.

BEFORE the Astronettes embarked on their "venture" last September, they wrote to all the National Aeronautics and Space Administration agencies in the United States for information on the background of the Apollo Program and specifications for building an Apollo. Last fall they began sketches of how they would build a spacecraft out of two-by-fours.

By January, they were working on the nose cone and heat shield. At that point they sent a letter to NASA in Houston announcing their official entry into the "Race for the Moon," apologizing for "beating the U.S. Space Program to its 1969 target date."

Correspondence between the Torrance Astronettes and Houston officials followed. The girls sent photos of their progress to their NASA pen pals. Result was a promise by the trio to bring back a "piece of moon—even if it should prove to be cheese" from their space journey and an invitation by NASA officials for the girls to visit the Houston facility.

ON MARCH 8 the three Astronettes, accompanied by Debbie's parents, boarded a plane and took off for Houston where they were treated to a five-hour tour of the premises. At NASA headquarters they visited the mission control room, saw the simulated Apollo used by the astronauts for training, examined the space suits worn by the astronauts and food eaten in space, and viewed a special film ordinarily shown only to NASA personnel.

After their return from

HERE MAY 17-18

Naval Units Join Armed Forces Day

Traditions and courtesies were duly exchanged between the Navy and a charming Torrance Princess under threatening grey clouds.

An invitation to the defending champion, the Navy, was presented by Torrance Princess Etta Cumiford to participate again in the ninth annual Armed Forces Day Parade and Celebration here May 17 and 18.

The men of the Guided Missile Destroyer USS John Paul Jones, one of the newest ships of its class in the Navy, were designated by the Navy to accept honors at the Long Beach Naval Station.

MISS CUMIFORD, a 20-year-old secretary and graduate of Narbonne High School, learned the ship was named in honor of Commodore John Paul Jones, the "Founder of the American Navy." First commissioned in 1956, the 850-ton destroyer made tours to Europe and South America

and participated in Project Mercury space recovery projects during a nine-year period.

Converted to a guided missile configuration and recommissioned in 1967, the 418-foot-long warship arrived in Long Beach in January under the command of Cmdr. L. R. Lester Jr., USN. The ship will leave for Southeast Asia late this summer, following intensive training in West coast waters.

The men squired the slender Torrance beauty from bow to stern—mess with the crew, coffee with the captain and officers, checkout in the weapons control center, engine room and on the bridge. She inspected the Tartar surface-to-air guided missiles and ASROC rocket-propelled anti-submarine weapons.

MISS CUMIFORD reminded the officers and crew that a marching platoon from the aircraft carrier USS Yorktown was the top winner of the

competition in last year's parade, witnessed by more than 100,000 spectators. At present the Yorktown is in the Western Pacific.

Immediately following the tour, the Navy granted permission to the threatening clouds . . . it poured!

The annual event, hosted by Torrance for families throughout communities in the area, is generally considered the largest civic-sponsored observance of Armed Forces Day in the nation. This time the highlights of the hour-and-a-half-long parade (See PARADE, Page A-2)

Bank Approved

SACRAMENTO—The state Banking Department announced it has granted permission to the Wells Fargo Bank to establish a branch in Torrance in the vicinity of Hawthorne Boulevard and Carson Street.

Candidates Talk Renewal, Expenses

By NATALIE HALL
Press-Herald Staff Writer

Urban Renewal, councilmen's expense accounts, and other campaign issues were spotlighted Wednesday night when ten City Council candidates addressed voters at the Torrance Recreation Center.

From the field of eleven official candidates, Torrance citizens will select three councilmen when they go to the polls Tuesday.

The meeting was sponsored by the League of Women Voters, with Mrs. William Birdsall acting as moderator.

Dr. Donald E. Wilson, a Torrance School Board trustee, spoke first. Dr. Wilson asked voters if they were satisfied with the rate of progress in

Torrance, noting that the city is no longer a small town. He said that city officials must "face the future," dealing effectively with such problems as crime, housing, traffic, and tax expenditures.

The candidate called for improved communications between the various sections of the city, underlining the need for "cohesiveness" in city planning. Cooperation between city agencies, he said, would result in more efficient use of the tax dollar.

William J. Uerkwitz spoke next, placing both feet firmly on what he called the "homeowner's platform." For too long, he said, the city has been under the control of land speculators, cheating

homeowners out of their fair share of local representation.

Uerkwitz stated that the City Council's vote on planning variances has not favored the individual. He called for a "balance" between the homeowner and the big land interests.

The telephone company executive is opposed to urban renewal and favors protection of commercial and industrial land in Torrance so that the city will not become a "bedroom community."

The first incumbent to speak was Ed Talbert, who was appointed to the City Council last August. Pointing to his 20 years experience in banking and capital insurance, Talbert stated that no

tax boost is now needed in Torrance.

Talbert also told briefly about his personal project of obtaining competent chemical analysts to prevent narcotics suspects from escaping punishment. The present system of sending confiscated narcotics to the county labs for processing is unsatisfactory, he said, because the labs are overburdened and cannot supply verdicts fast enough to convict suspects.

He is studying a cooperative arrangement between area cities to combat the problem.

Another candidate, tire dealer Leo F. X. Salisbury, expressed his opposition to (See MEETING, Page A-2)